



## Ponca State Park 2013 Special Events



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| January 1               | <b>First Day Hike</b><br>Ring in the New Year with the winter woods and resident wildlife along the park trails. Participants check in at the Resource and Education Center. Hot cider and cookies, too! FREE  |
| February 15-18          | <b>Birds &amp; Breakfast</b><br>Grab your binoculars to observe our winter bird populations and monitor nesting sites in the area for the Annual Great Backyard Bird Count. FREE. Visit Saturday for breakfast and all-day birding programs.   |
| March 2-3, 9-10 & 16-17 | <b>Marsh Madness</b><br>Witness the spring migration of waterfowl along the Missouri River. An interpretive guide from the Loess Hills Audubon Society will escort you down to our North Addition wetland areas to view various bird species. Reservable waterfowl blinds with guided observation, educational programs, nest watching, youth activities & more. |
| April 20                | <b>Earth Day Celebration</b><br>Join us for environmental conservation activities for the whole family, including a Riverfront clean-up event. FREE  |
| May 4 & 5               | <b>Outdoor Cooking Camp Weekend</b><br>The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Outdoor Cooking Camp features hands-on instruction & demonstration on the aspects of outdoor cooking. Special programs for kids! Discounts & lodging packages available to camp participants. Reservations requested.  |
| May 12                  | <b>Mother's Day Buffet</b><br>Treat your Mother to a special day among family and friends with a wonderful meal and musical entertainment. Reservations requested.   |
| May 18                  | <b>Nebraska Game &amp; Parks Commission FREE Fishing &amp; Park Entry Day</b>  |
| June 1 & 2              | <b>Scheels 3-D Archery Tournament</b><br>The public is invited to compete in a 3-D Shoot hosted by Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and sponsored by Scheels. Each round of shooting includes 25 targets. Includes prizes & giveaways! For more information, contact Scheels Archery Shop at (712) 252-1551.   |
| June 15 & 16            | <b>Bugs &amp; Bones Weekend</b><br>Explore the archeology & insects of the region, featuring hands-on activities such as fossil digs, educational hikes, pond studies, special guests & more. FREE!  |
| June 16                 | <b>Father's Day Fish Fry</b><br>Treat Dad to a homemade fish dinner with all the fixin's, including Dutch oven cobbler dessert from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Call ahead for menu. Reservations requested.   |
| July 6                  | <b>Dutch-Oven Cobbler &amp; Ice Cream Social</b><br>Treat your family to homemade Dutch oven cobbler and hand-cranked ice-cream at the Missouri National Recreational River Resource & Education Center at 7 p.m. Family fun games to follow.  |
| August 24               | <b>Lewis &amp; Clark Heritage Day</b>  |

The tour of Discovery camped along the Missouri River on this day over 200 years ago. Celebrate their history with Missouri River kayaking, Heritage Camp & special guests, interpretive museum showcase, period games, crafts, displays & more. FREE!

September 21 & 22

### **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Missouri River Outdoor Expo**

Celebrate our outdoor heritage with over 80 hands-on exhibits, demonstrations, vendors and all-day entertainment. This fun and educational weekend for the whole family includes wildlife viewing, shooting sports, fishing, hunting, rock climbing, camping, hiking, boat tours and much more ! Daily 9 a.m – 5 p.m. For more information visit: [www.missouririverexpo.com](http://www.missouririverexpo.com) FREE!

October 5

### **Homemade Living Day**

This 4th Annual event focuses on all things homemade and homegrown. Demonstrations include canning & preserving, fiber arts, quilting, home-style foods and more. FREE!

October 12 & 19

### **Hallowfest**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween celebration features haunted evening hayrack rides, a pumpkin rolling and carving contest, campsite decorating contest and much more ! Hayrack reservations begin October 7<sup>th</sup>.

December 14

### **Annual Christmas Bird Count**

This event coincides with the Audubon Society National Christmas Bird Count. Birdwatchers of all ages are invited to compare notes and sighting reports. Chili feed to follow. FREE!

December 28

### **Winterfest**

Rekindle family wintertime traditions with the quest for the Yule log, hidden within the park. Includes all-day activities such as the fruitcake fling, kindling hunt for kids, Yule Log Quest and bonfire, crafts, food & refreshments, lighted holiday hayrack rides, evening entertainment & more!

### **Outdoor Education Programs**

Daily interactive programs on outdoor skills, environmental education and arts & crafts are offered Memorial Day to Labor Day weekend. Off-season weekend programs may be available based on staff availability and group events may be customized to your needs. Call park office to schedule. Many activities are FREE !



**“WHERE PEOPLE AND NATURE MEET”**

**Ponca State Park**

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